

Proposed Ozone Standards & Implications for Central Texas

City of Austin Environmental Board Meeting

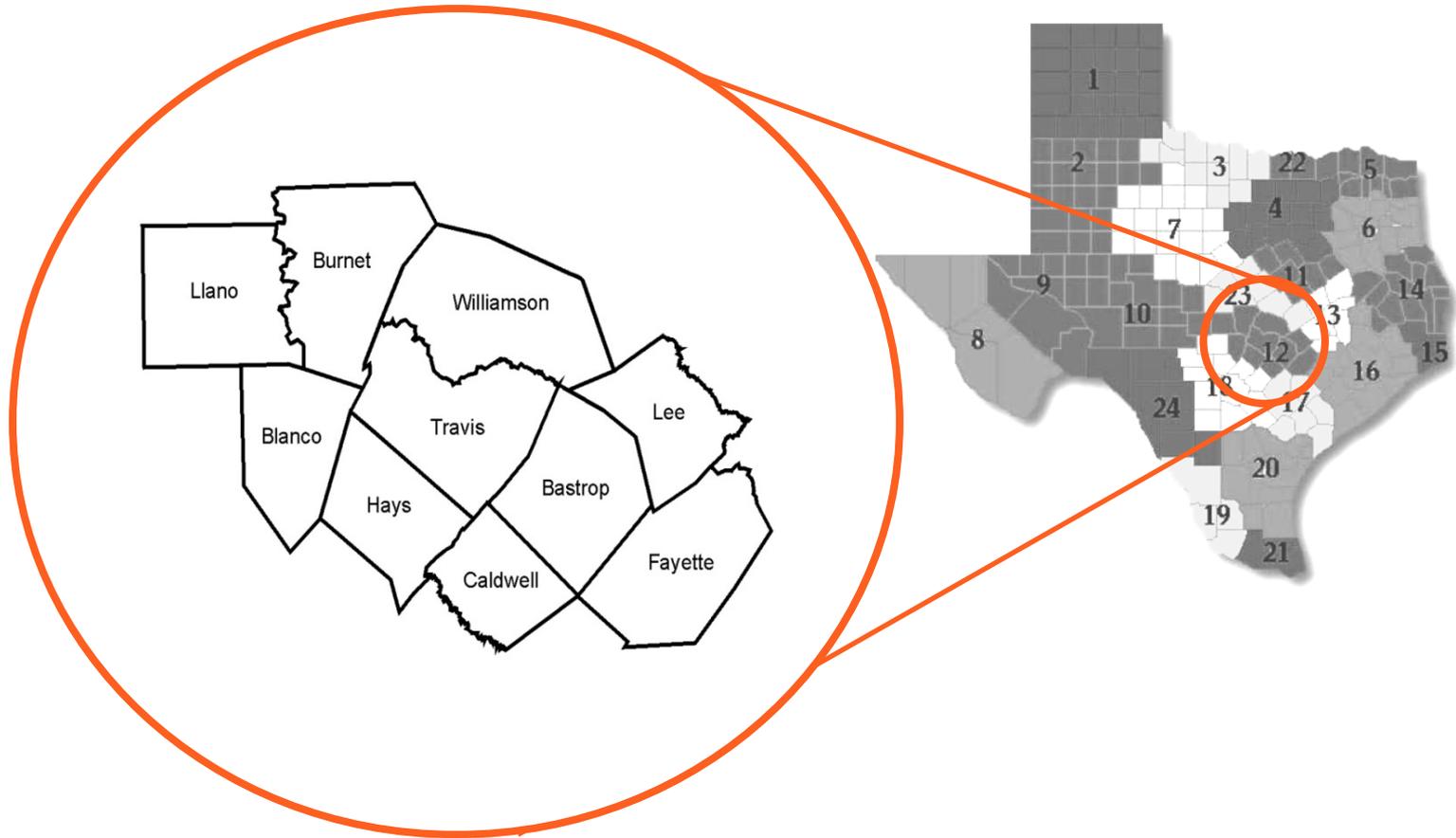
March 4, 2015

CAPCOG – Regional Planning Commission in Statute; More often called a COG.



- Emergency Communications 9-1-1
- Area Agency on Aging
- Homeland Security Planning & Training
- Regional Law Enforcement Academy
- Air Quality Planning
- Economic Development Analysis & Tech Assist
- Solid Waste Planning

Ten-County service area; State of Texas planning region 12





CAPCOG Executive Committee

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City of Buda

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Joe Don Dockery
Burnet County

Commissioner
Cynthia Long
Williamson County

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Ken Schawe
Caldwell County

Judge
Brett Bray
Blanco County

Judge
Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

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City of Leander

Council Member
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Jason Isaac

Judge
Bert Cobb
Hays County

Judge
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State Representative
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Bastrop County

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Gerald Daugherty
Travis County

Judge
Ed Janecka
Fayette County

Commissioner
Maurice Pitts
Lee County

EPA's Proposed Ozone Standards



- Proposed on November 25, 2014
- Lower the level from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to a range of 65-70 ppb
- Central Texas Levels 2012-2014: 69 ppb
- Intended to increase protections for public health and vegetation
- Comments due March 17, 2015

Review of Ozone – What Is It?

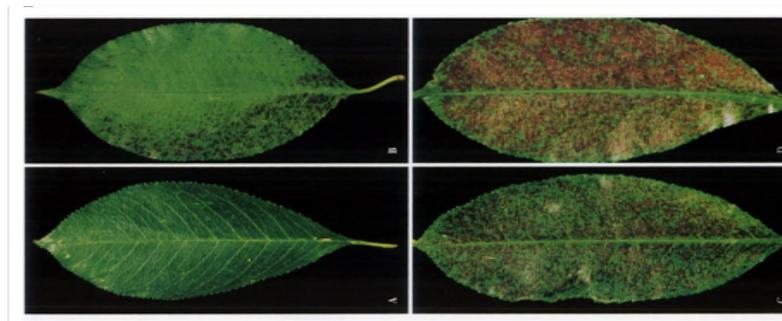


Impacts of Ozone Exposure

Respiratory Effects and Premature Death in Humans



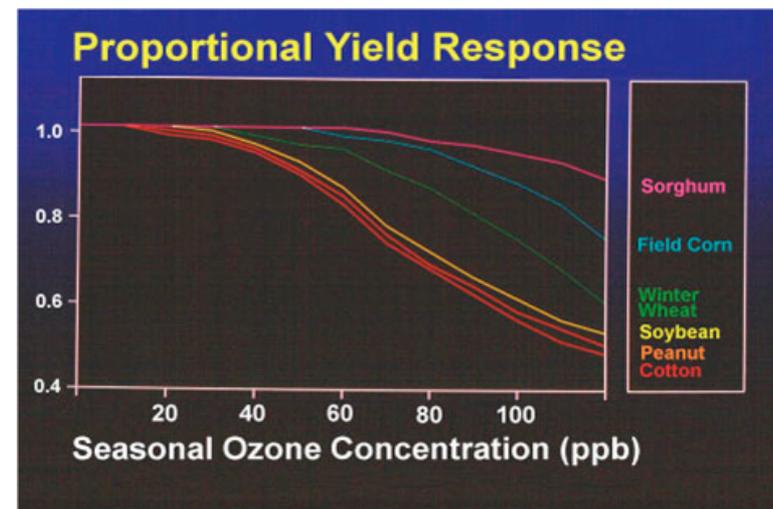
Damage to Vegetation And Reduced Crop Yields



of Deaths in 2007 Associated with Peak Summertime Ozone Levels

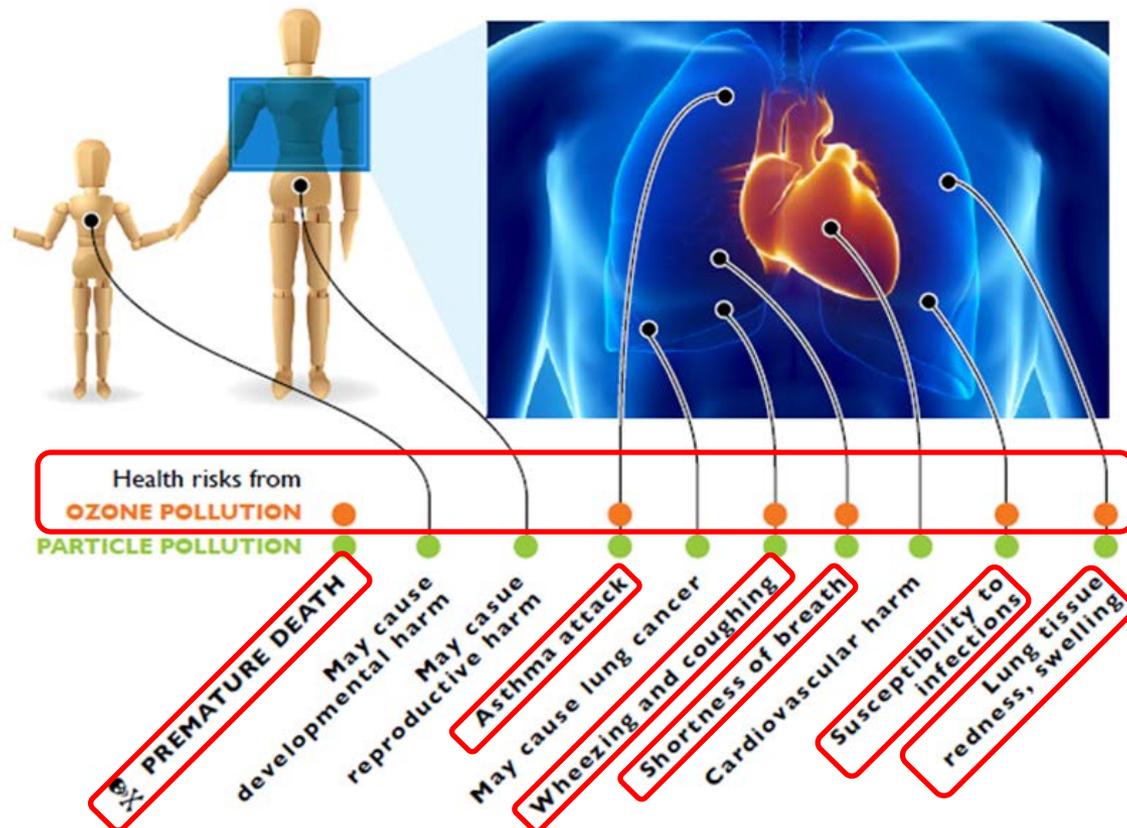
County	Smith et. al Study	Zanobetti Study	Jerrett et. al Study
Bastrop	2-4	2-4	4-8
Caldwell	1-2	1-2	4-8
Hays	2-4	2-4	8-16
Travis	16-32	16-32	>64
Williamson	8-16	8-16	16-32

Source: Health and Risk Exposure Assessment, Figures 8-2, 8-3, and 8-4
http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/ozone/s_o3_2008_rea.html



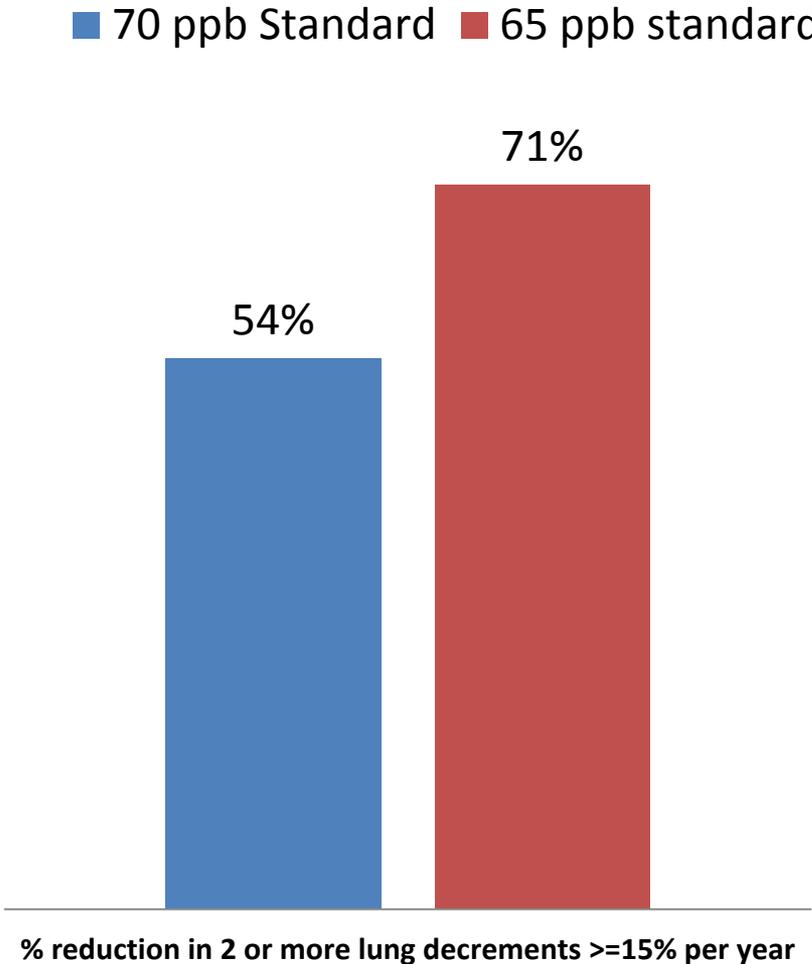
Review of Ozone Health Impacts

Air pollution remains a major danger to the health of children and adults.



EPA Estimates of Health Benefits of Proposal

Source: EPA. 79 Federal Register 75297 – 75298
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-17/pdf/2014-28674.pdf>



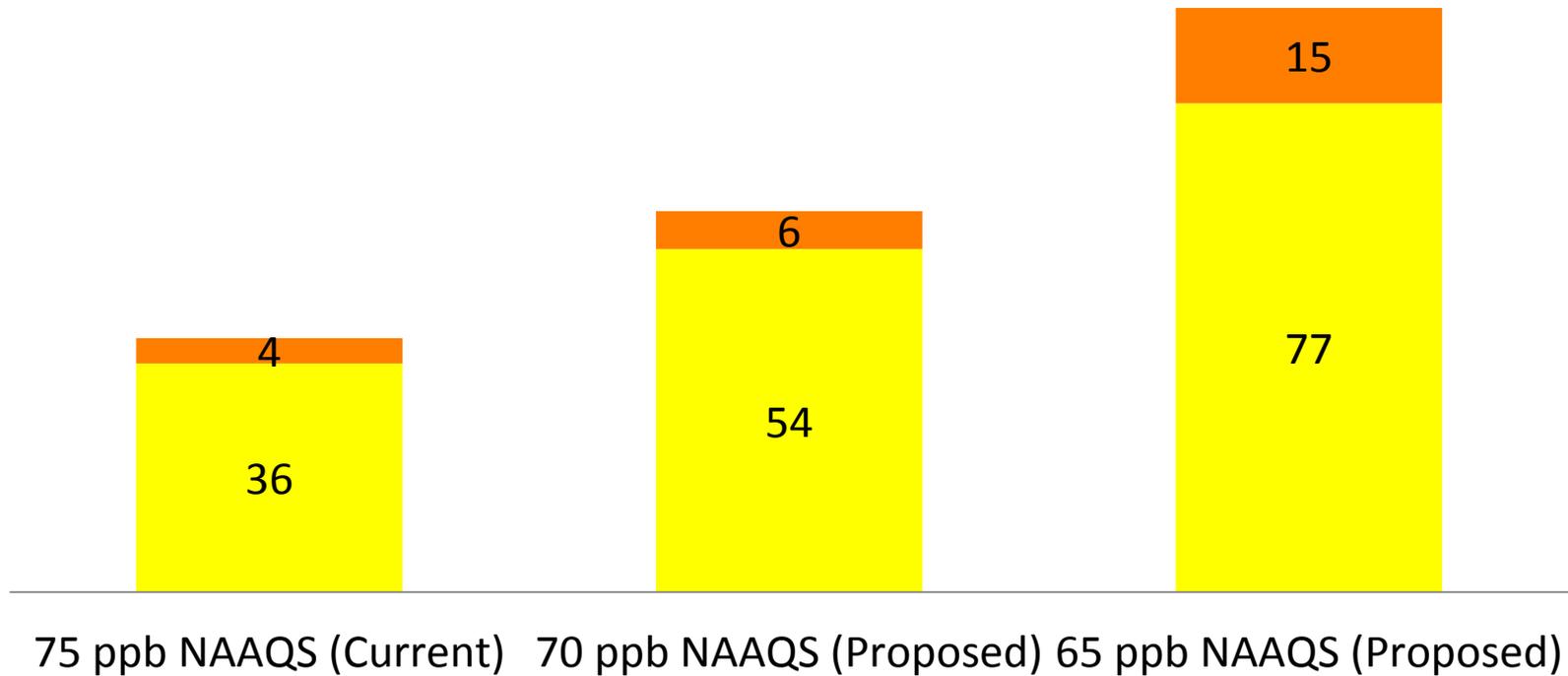
Proposed Changes to the Air Quality Index

Air Quality Index Level for 8-Hour Ozone Averages	Current 75 ppb Standard	Proposed 70 ppb Standard	Proposed 65 ppb Standard
Good	0-59 ppb	0-54 ppb	0-49 ppb
Moderate	60-75 ppb	55-70 ppb	50-65 ppb
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	76-95 ppb	71-85 ppb	66-85 ppb
Unhealthy	96-115 ppb	86-105 ppb	85-105 ppb
Very Unhealthy	116-374 ppb	106-200 ppb	106-200 ppb
Hazardous	375+ ppb	200+ ppb	200+ ppb

2012 Ozone Season Based on AQI

Number of High Days within AQI Ranges

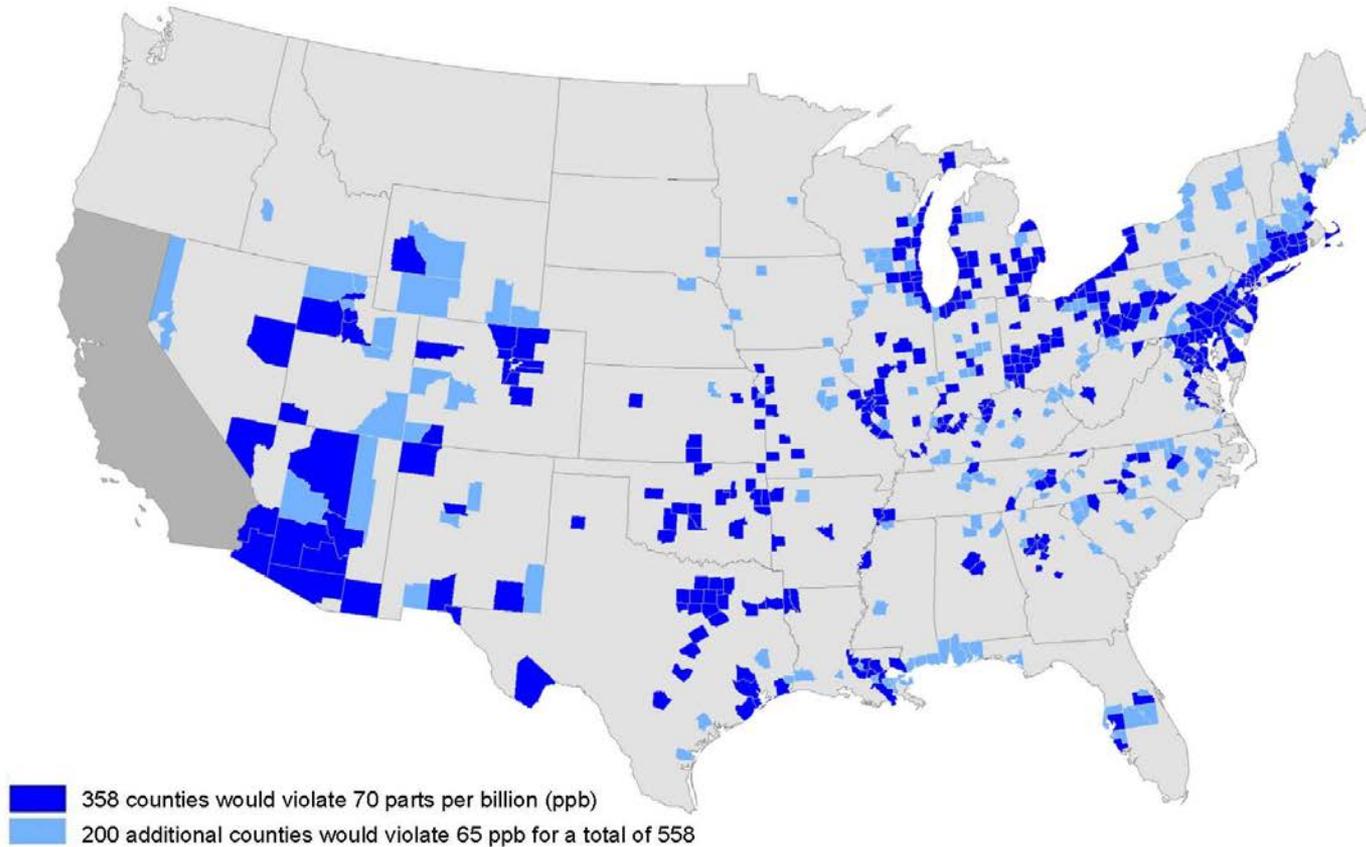
■ Moderate
 ■ Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups



Counties Over the Proposed Standard, 2013



Counties Where Measured Ozone 2011-2013 was Above Proposed Range of Standards (65 – 70 parts per billion)



Counties Over the Proposed Standard, 2025



EPA Projects Most Counties Would Meet the Proposed Range of Standards in 2025



-  9 counties outside of California would violate 70 parts per billion (ppb)
-  59 additional counties outside of California would violate 65 ppb for a total of 68

Because several areas in California are not required to meet the existing standard by 2025 and may not be required to meet a revised standard until sometime between 2032 and 2037, EPA analyzed California separately. Details are available in the Regulatory Impact Analysis for this proposal.

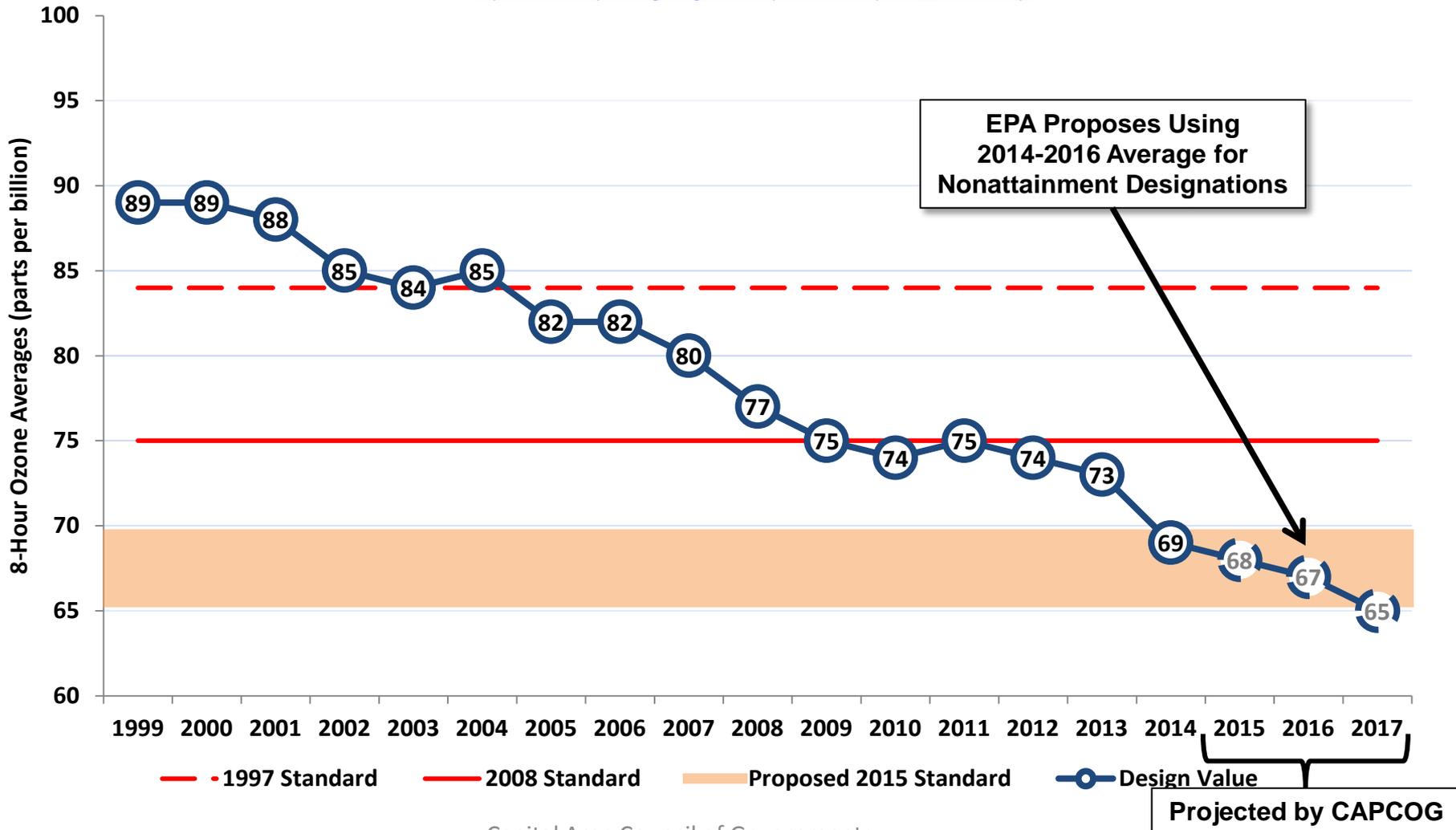
Impacts of O₃ Nonattainment Designation

- More difficult to build new roads
- Industrial growth is limited
- Federal approvals become more difficult
- No “back-sliding”

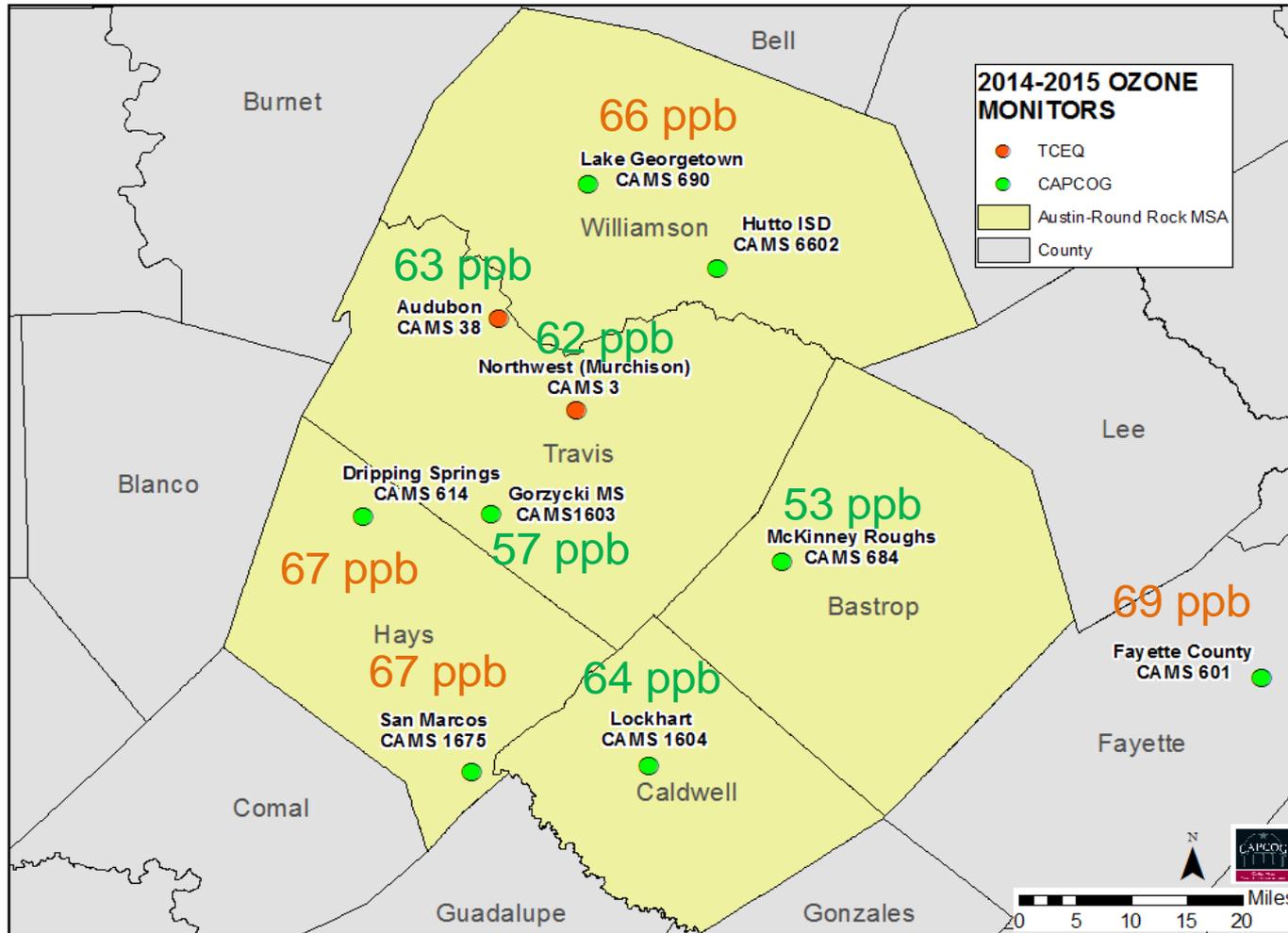


Compliance with Ozone NAAQS

Source: TCEQ https://www.tceq.texas.gov/cgi-bin/compliance/monops/8hr_attainment.pl



2014 Ozone Levels Around the Region



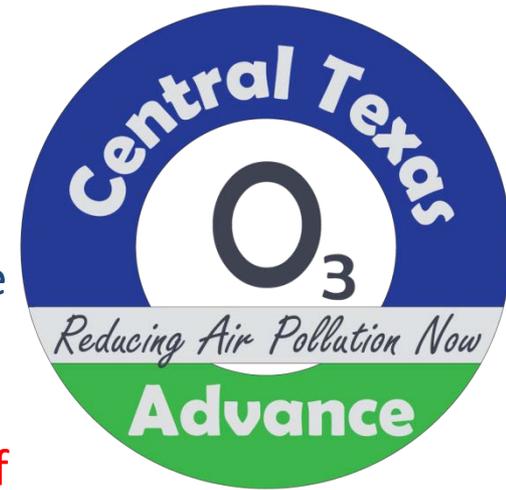
Central Texas Clean Air Coalition



- County and City Elected Officials
- Adopts Air Quality Plans
- Policies and Strategies to Guide Member Jurisdictions
- **Won 2014 Clean Air Excellence Award from EPA**

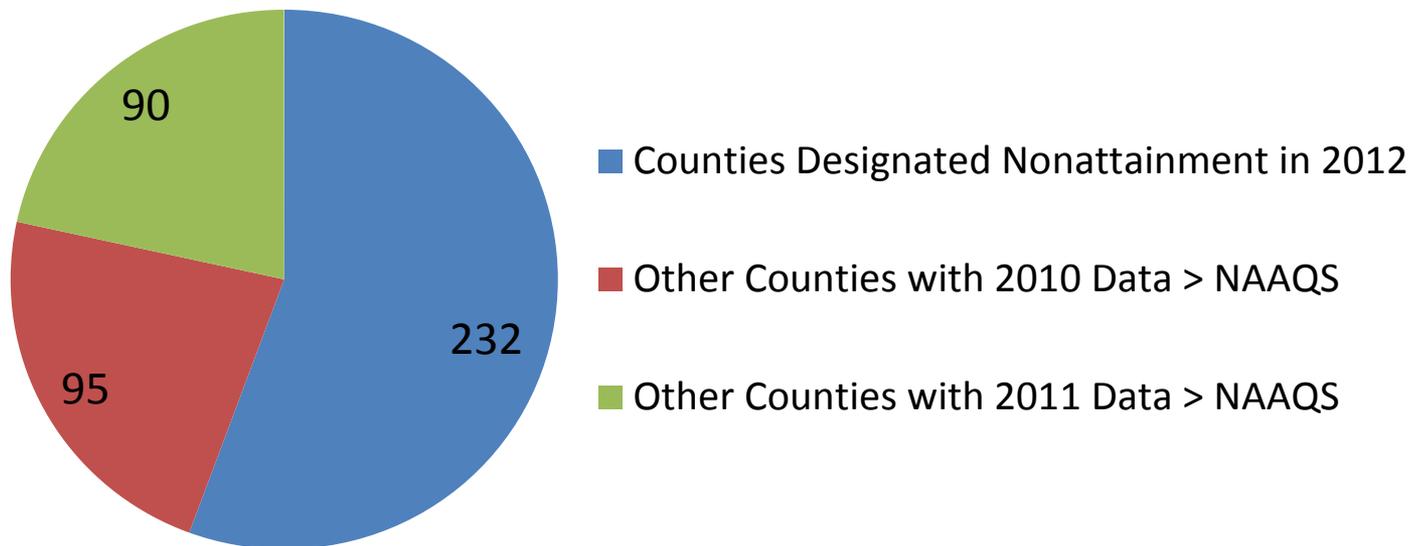
Regional Air Quality Goals

1. **Stay in attainment** of the 2008 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of 75 parts per billion (ppb);
2. **Continue reducing the region's 8-hour ozone design value** to avoid being designated nonattainment for a new ozone NAAQS;
3. Put the region in the best possible position to **bring the area into attainment of an ozone standard expeditiously if it does violate an ozone standard** or gets designated nonattainment;
4. **Reduce the exposure of vulnerable populations** to air pollution when the region experiences high ozone levels, and
5. **Minimize the costs to the region** of any potential future nonattainment designation.



1: Evaluate alternatives to assessing compliance

Sensitivity of 2008 Ozone NAAQS Designations to Meteorology

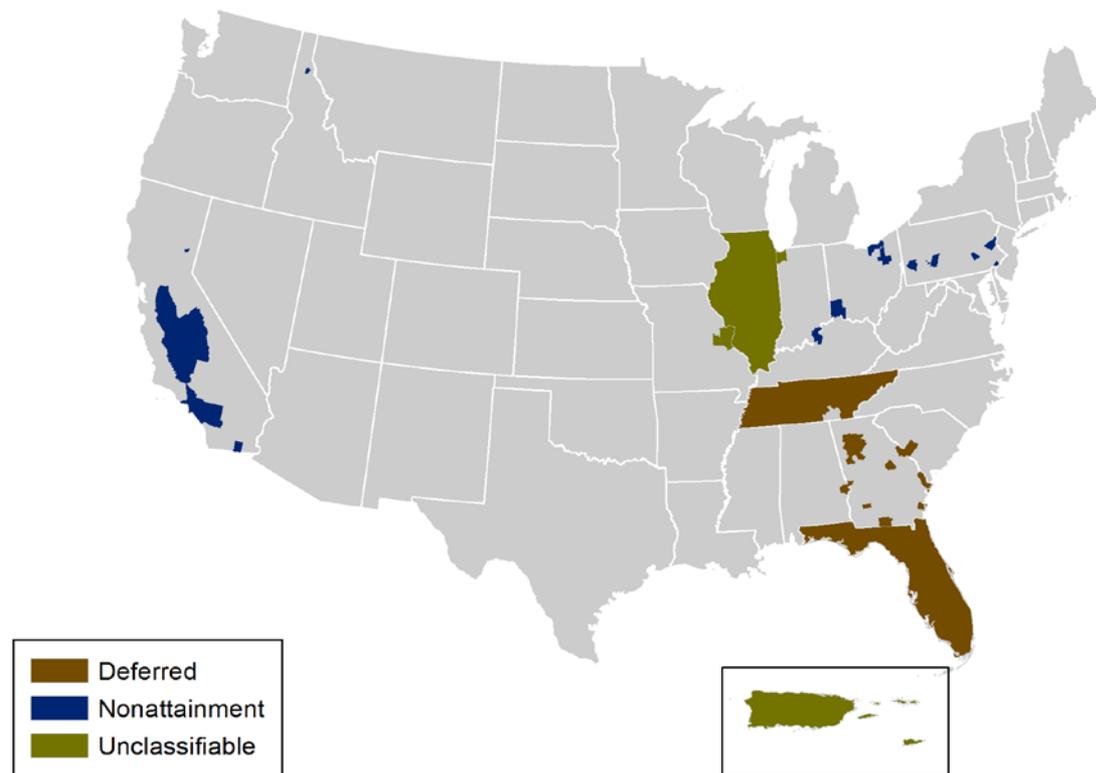


Source: EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/airtransport/O3TransportAQModelingTSD.pdf>

2: Be flexible in area designation process

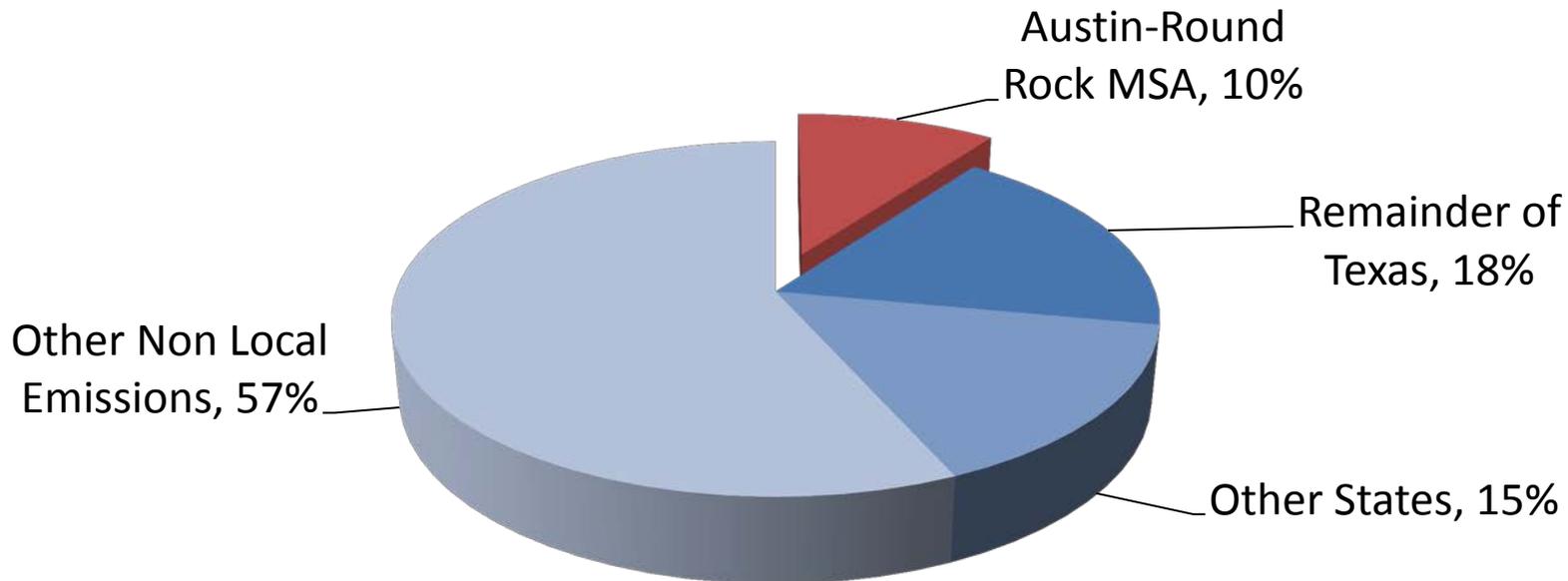
- “Unclassifiable” Designations
- 1-Year Designation Deferrals

2012 Annual PM_{2.5} Designations



DRAFT CAC Letter to the EPA

3: Address ozone pollution transported into metropolitan areas



Contributions to Peak Ozone Levels in Central Texas

Sources: EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/airtransport/O3TransportAQModelingTSD.pdf>
 CAPCOG: http://www.capcog.org/documents/airquality/reports/2013/Task_8.3-APCA_Analysis_Final.pdf

DRAFT CAC Letter to the EPA

4: Fully account for voluntarily adopted emission reduction measures

Measure	NO _x Reduction (tpd)	VOC Reduction (tpd)
Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance	2.95	2.45
TERP Grants	3.22	0.00
Low-Emission Diesel Regulations	2.49	0.00
Low-Emission Gasoline Regulations	0.31	1.16
Water Heaters, Small Boilers, and Process Heaters	0.51	0.00
Stage I Vapor Recovery at Gas Stations	0.00	6.46
Degreasing Rules	0.00	0.92
Cutback Asphalt Restrictions	0.00	0.24
State Emission Reduction Measures, 2013	9.48	11.23

Source: CAPCOG http://www.capcog.org/documents/airquality/reports/2014/Austin-Round_Rock_MSA_Annual_Air_Quality_Report_-_2013.pdf

Timeline

03/2015

- Next Clean Air Coalition Meeting – March 11, 2015

03/2015

- **Proposed Rulemaking Comment Period Closes – March 17, 2015**

10/2015

- **Court Ordered Deadline for Finalizing Standard – October 1, 2015**

06/2017

- **EPA Proposes Nonattainment Designations – June 2017**

10/20/17

- **EPA Finalizes Nonattainment Designations – October 2017**

10/2020

- **Attainment Deadline for Marginal Areas – October 2020**

How Central Texas Can Respond to Proposal

- Formal Comment Letter to the EPA
 - CAC
 - Individual Jurisdictions
- Letter to the Congressional Delegation
- Ensure Existing Voluntary Commitments Are Fully Implemented
- Secure Additional Voluntary Reductions Over the Next 2 Years

Questions?



THANK YOU!

Capital Area Council of Governments

Air Quality Program

<http://www.capcog.org/airquality>

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